negative potential to accelerate electrons emitted from the filament 34 toward the anode. The grids 36 are preferably biased at a lower voltage than the filament. On the conducting layer 30, the phosphor layer 32 emits light in response to the bombardment by electrons emitted from the filament 34 and accelerated by the grids 36.

and please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As explained above, a VFD according to the present invention does not have any obstacles in the electron path to an anode, so most of the electrons emitted from a filament can reach the anode. Further, the electrons are accelerated by an electron control unit and uniformly diffused by control electrodes in the VFD, so brightness as well as display quality is much improved.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 7, and 8 as follows. All pending claims are recited herein for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Amended) A vacuum flourescent display comprising:

a pair of substrates and side glasses surrounding an evacuated envelope;

an electron emissive means for emitting electrons when a negative potential is applied;

a display means, provided on one of the substrates in the evacuated envelope, capable of having a positive potential applied thereto, for displaying a predetermined image in response to electrons emitted from the electron emissive means; and

an electron control means for generating a repulsive electric field to allow acceleration of electrons emitted from the electron emissive means in the direction of the display means,

wherein the electron emissive means is located between the display means and electron control means.

2. (Unchanged) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 1, wherein the electron control means is mounted on the other substrate.

3. (Unchanged) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 1, ~~wherein a negative~~ potential is applied to the electron control means.

4. (Unchanged) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 2, wherein a negative potential is applied to the electron control means.

5. (Unchanged) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 3, wherein the electron control means is a plurality of grids which are shaped as a mesh.

6. (Unchanged) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 3, wherein the electron control means is a layer of a transparent electrically conductive material.

7. (Amended) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 6, wherein the transparent electrically conductive material is tin doped indium oxide.

8. (Amended) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 1, further comprising control electrode means, located near the electron emissive means, for control of trajectories of electrons emitted from the electron emissive means.

9. (Unchanged) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 8, wherein either a positive or negative potential is applied to the control electrode means.

Please add new claims 10-17 as follows:

10. (New) A method of producing an image on a vacuum fluorescent display, comprising:

providing a vacuum fluorescent display having an evacuated envelope enclosed by two substrates and side glasses, a display means provided on one of the substrates in the evacuated envelope, an electron control means, and an electron emissive means located between the display means and electron control means;

applying a negative potential to the electron emissive means to emit electrons;

applying a positive potential to the display means to attract the emitted electrons; and

applying a negative potential to the electron control means to accelerate the emitted electrons toward the display means.

11. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein the vacuum fluorescent display further comprises a control electrode, the method further comprising applying a potential to the control electrode to control the trajectory of the emitted electrons.

12. (New) A vacuum flourescent display comprising:

a pair of substrates and side glasses surrounding an evacuated envelope;

a display provided on one of the substrates in the evacuated envelope;

an electron controller to allow acceleration of electrons toward the display; and

an electron emitter located between the display and electron controller.

13. (New) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 12, wherein the electron controller is mounted on the other substrate.

14. (New) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 12 wherein the electron controller is shaped as a mesh.

15. (New) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 12, wherein the electron controller is a layer of a transparent electrically conductive material.

16. (New) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 15, wherein the transparent electrically conductive material is tin doped indium oxide.

17. (New) The vacuum fluorescent display as recited in claim 12, further comprising